

THE COURIER

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Bethel Historical Society Opens "Molly Ockett and Her World" Exhibit

The Society's new exhibit, "Molly Ockett and Her World," opened appropriately on Molly Ockett Day 2004 at the Robinson House and will continue through December 2006. Using photographs, artifacts, paintings and written text, this exhibition has been installed in the "Molly Ockett Room," where a plaque honoring this well-known Indian describes her as a "Pigwacket healer, artisan, hunter, storyteller and stalwart friend of the settlers of this region and this town."

Born on a point of land below the falls at Saco, Maine, Molly Ockett is the best-known individual from the local past in the mind of the typical resident of western Maine. Baptized "Marie Agathe," Molly Ockett lived among the white settlers of such towns as Bethel, Andover, Fryeburg, and Paris during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. She is recalled annually at Bethel's "Molly Ockett Day"



"Molly Ockett," a watercolor painting by Danna Brown Nickerson

festivities, and her name is connected with numerous geographic landmarks, business ventures and community organizations.

Throughout the years since her death in 1816, Molly Ockett has become a legendary figure, the subject of fireside story-telling, school pageants, and popular magazine articles. The "Indian mystique," complete with romance, curses, buried treasure, and near-miraculous cures, has insured Molly Ockett's place in the consciousness of the region. But what of the real Molly Ockett? Tangible evidence of her life exists in her burial place in Andover, in several decorated birch-

bark boxes and an embroidered pocketbook, and in accounts of her activities recorded from the memories of early white settlers. Both English and French colonial records also provide a basis for the many popular and often re-told stories about Molly Ockett. Through the use of these sources and others, the Society's exhibit seeks to elevate Molly Ockett from the realm of myth and legend to the status of a documented personage in the colonial history of northern New England.

Beyond its focus on the life of this well-known Abenaki, the Society's newest exhibit addresses a wide range of topics and issues that were of significance during Molly Ockett's life. Such subjects as Indian-white cultural exchange, the

Revolutionary War, the settling of towns in western Maine and northern New Hampshire, and the famous "Last Indian Raid" (which occurred in the upper Androscoggin River Valley in 1781) are just a few subjects that are covered. By expanding upon the life of Molly Ockett, the Society hopes to create an exhibition that will be of interest to the general public, as well as those searching for an



Molly Ockett's grave in Andover's Woodlawn Cemetery is marked with this marble tablet. Photo courtesy of Pat Stewart.

accurate portrayal of Indian life during this important period in the region's history.

Funding for this exhibit was provided by the Molly Ockett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Maine State Organization of the DAR. This exhibit and others in the Robinson House are open throughout the year, Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. and on weekend afternoons (1-4 p.m.) during July, August and December.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Over \$630,000 has been raised to date from cash, stock, gifts, pledges, grants, and challenges from over 400 donors. Another comprehensive listing of those making gifts will be included in the next issue. To learn more about this Society project or to make a capital gift, see our web-site address on page 12 or call (800) 824-2910 or write us at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

SOCIETY CELEBRATES THIRTY YEARS AT THE DR. MOSES MASON HOUSE

This issue highlights the thirty years that the Society has owned the Dr. Moses Mason House and is dedicated to the memory of Eva Bean, who started the Society in 1966, Sidney Davidson, who led the effort for the Bingham Trust to restore the building and deed it to the Society, and to all the volunteers who helped make things happen, particularly during those early years.

The restored house and land were deeded to the Society by the Bingham Trust for Charity on 4 January 1974. At a monthly meeting in February 1974, the Society officially received the deed for the property. In May, Stanley R. Howe was hired to administer the site. The building opened to the public in July and was officially dedicated on 10 July 1974. Since that time, the building has housed a period house museum, research library (added in 1975), office, meeting and exhibit space, kitchen, and apartment for the site administrator. When the Society took possession of the Robinson House in 1999, the administrative offices and museum shop were moved there. Through the years, there have been dozens of historical exhibits, lectures, luncheons, meetings, and special events. The building continues to play a major role in Society operations.

Throughout this issue, there are photos of some of the events and people at the Dr. Mason House who helped bring the Society to its present level of achievement. Unfortunately, space does not permit the publication of everyone who helped with the Society through the years, but we hope this selection does provide a representative sampling.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The opening of the Dr. Moses Mason House to the public thirty years ago was certainly a significant time for the Society. As we observe this milestone, we should not forget those who came before us for they possessed the vision of a headquarters for an organization that struggled to survive in 1969 after the death of founder Eva Bean. Dedicated members came forward to fill some of the void left by the loss of Miss Bean to keep things going, so that the Society could begin to thrive in its new place of operations in 1974. Today only a handful of the original volunteers survive. All but four of the original charter members have died. There have been many changes since those early days, but interest in the Society continues to grow and more members come aboard every year. It has become a valued community resource and gained an increasingly prominent profile among the historical organizations in the state and region.

Arlan R. Jodrey

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or by e-mail: info@bethelhistorical.org

30th Anniversary Photo Gallery



State Historian Robert M. York, chairman of the Awards Committee of the Maine League of Historical Societies, poses with Society president Marvin Ouwinga in the Dr. Moses Mason House meeting room in 1987 following the presentation of the Harry W. Rowe Award to the Society for "an outstanding contribution to state and local history."



Registrar Jane Hosterman and Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett hold the "Bethel" sign that once graced the Bethel Railroad Station, which was demolished in 1968. This sign is among the thousands of artifacts and historical documents collected since 1974 and stored in the Dr. Moses Mason House and the O'Neil Robinson House.



Society Executive Director Stanley R. Howe presents a blue ribbon to a student visitor during Heritage Day 1983 festivities. Special events and student programming have been an integral part of the Society's numerous activities since 1974.



Nell W. Valentine, a charter member of the Society, works on a quilt during a traditional craft demonstration event at the Dr. Moses Mason House. Mrs. Valentine started quilting when she was four years of age and continued until her death in 1982 at the age of 94. She was very active in the furnishing of the Dr. Moses Mason House in 1974.



Alden T. Kennett, a former Society president, concentrates on the building of a split rail fence on the lawn of the Dr. Moses Mason House ca. 1980 during Sudbury Canada Days, the Society's summer heritage festival.

30th Anniversary Photo Gallery



Albert Skillings (1896-1986), farmer, blacksmith, river driver, logger, and World War I veteran, poses with a group of students following a presentation on farming and logging artifacts in the Dr. Moses Mason House meeting room.



Elizabeth Lord demonstrates the old time craft of quilling at Heritage Day 1981 in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House.



Albert Brown, Rosalind Chapman, charter member and former trustee, and Arthur Cummings discuss historical questions following a session of the popular quiz program, "So You Think You Know Bethel" at the Dr. Moses Mason House.



Marah Webster demonstrates tole painting at a traditional craft session in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House.



Former U. S. Ambassador Margaret Joy Tibbetts, longtime Society Trustee chair, stands between photographs of famed trapper and hunter Joshua G. Rich and his wife Mary at the Dr. Moses Mason House Meeting Room following their presentation to the Society.

30th Anniversary Photo Gallery



Helen Morton, artist, former Society Trustee, and longtime museum guide, stands in front of an exhibit in the Dr. Moses Mason House Meeting Room with life member Daisy LeClair and Agnes Haines, Society charter member and avid researcher.



Two former Society presidents, Donald G. Bennett, left and Catherine Newell, right, pose with Judy Haskell (second from left), former secretary and trustee, and Edith Eaton Eddy, also a former secretary and trustee, ca. 1980 in the Society office at the Dr. Moses Mason House.



U.S. Senator Edmund S. Muskie speaks from the back steps of the Dr. Moses Mason House during the dedication ceremonies for the Bethel Historic District in 1977.



Shelia MacDonald, then with the Maine State Museum, leads a workshop at the Dr. Moses Mason House during the 1980s. Special events, lectures, workshops, conferences, craft demonstrations, dinners, and numerous other cultural events have been held here since 1974.



Ernest and Betty Perkins, portraying Doctor Moses and Agnes Straw Mason, stand in front of the dining room fireplace in the Dr. Moses Mason House during an open house ca. 1980. Thousands of visitors from around the world have toured the museum since it open in 1974.

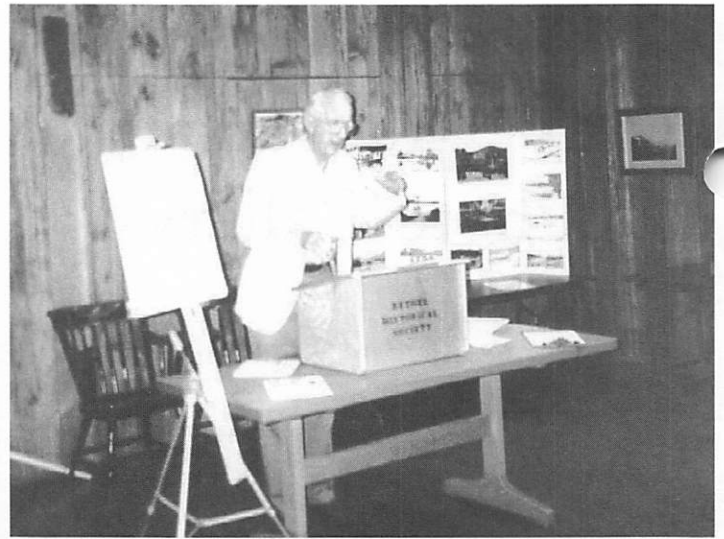
Recent Activities during 2004



Howard Reiche holds up the Gilead Bicentennial Cake while Hugh Chapman looks on. Reiche and Chapman presented the first lecture of the 2004 series on the history of Gilead, which celebrated its bicentenary this year.



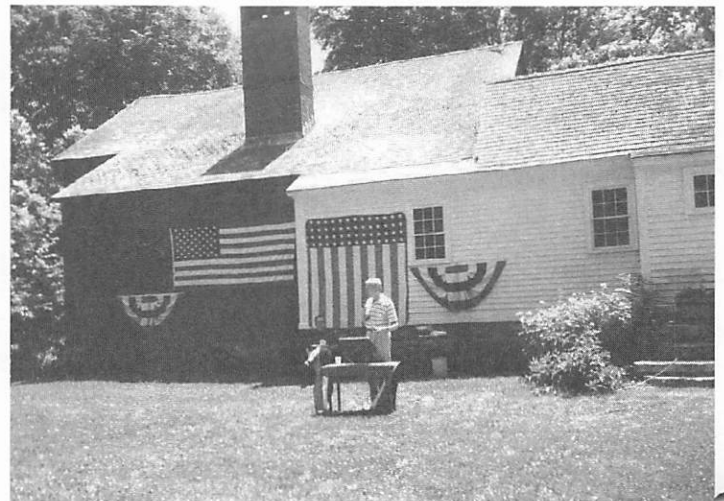
Jim and Linda Auman of Warren, New Jersey and Norway, Maine, have presented the Bethel Historical Society with 1/4 inch-to-the-foot scale models of the Bethel Manufacturing Company's mill, finishing house, and hose house which once stood between Cross Street and the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Bethel Hill village. The models were built by Jim Auman based on photographs and Sanborn insurance maps provided by the Society. The mill (once known as the "Bethel Chair Factory"), was the larger of the two structures and was built in 1886 and burned in 1944. Originally, various kinds of chairs, including Shaker rockers, were manufactured here, but after 1916 the mill was converted to spool production. The finishing house, located closer to the tracks, stood until 1996, when, as the town's oldest industrial building, it was demolished by Bethel Station Limited Partnership. The models have been incorporated into the Society's "Bethel: A Historic Town" exhibit, which already features a scale model of Bethel's Grand Trunk Railway Station, also created by Jim Auman.



David Chaplin delivers the second lecture in the 2004 series on river ferries on the Androscoggin.



Jane Hosterman and Tom Wheeler were among the visitors at the Molly Ockett and Her World exhibit during its opening in July.



Donald M. Christie, M.D., who grew up near the Dr. Moses Mason House, made a few remarks on the significance of the Fourth of July at the Society's 2004 Community Picnic prior to the annual concert by the Portland Brass Quintet.

Diary of William S. Hastings

(continued from the last issue)



1940--November 1, Clear, warm. Put up spuds & plowed. Nearly finished plowing but broke plow. November 2, Light rain a.m. Flood in p.m. 3 hrs. for Enman in Rumford Lot 79. Located corner of 80 & old division line. P.M. Hung roll door on cellar. November 3, Clear, windy. Dad & I went to Bill's [Yates] camp hunting [in Greenwood]. Dad got strayed into Sanborn Valley & Bill & I brot [sic] him in at 9 p.m. November 4, Windy. No luck. November 5, Clear & warm. No luck. Came home. November 6, Rain. Carpenter work. Visiting officers night at Star. Over 100 present. November 7, Showers. Snow. 7 1/2 hrs. for Enman & finished. Paid \$20. November 8, Cloudy. Butchered veal. Put up spuds. Norway in p.m. November 9, Clear & cool. Rumford with veal. Met Mert Farwell at 10 a.m. on 17 R7 & ran the east lot line & 1/2 lot line, 6 hrs. Mert paid \$3.45. November 10, Cloudy, cold. Around home in a.m., Bethel & Greenwood in p.m. November 11, Cloudy. Laced belt & filed saw. Graded spuds. P.M. 4 hrs. surveying for E. E. Bennett in 19 R8 Bethel. November 12, Rain. Called to court as So. Paris as a witness for C. W. Hall in his slander case against Fred Edwards. Verdict: \$3180 for Hall. November 13, Cloudy. Rain at night. New culvert for Coburn Place. Dad & I yarded 4 sills for his camp. Cleaned a henhouse. November 14, Cloudy. Grading spuds. 4 hrs. for E. E. Bennett in L 18R7, north of river, Bethel. Rain in p.m. & all night. November 15, Rain. Fixed Noyes washing machine. Worked on Dad's camp. November 16, Rain. Gene Burns & I surveyed 8 hrs. for P. H. Chadbourne in 28 R2. Wet day. November 17, Cloudy, cool. Worked on Dad's camp. New sills & moved it to new site. November 18, Cloudy, cool. Gene & I surveyed for Chadbourne 8 hrs. Finished West & North lines of 28 R2. November 19, Clear, cool. Surveying on 28 east line, 8 hr. & finished. November 20, Clear, cool. Sawed & hauled wood all day. So. Paris in eve. to Club Dinner. November 21, Clear, cool. Started Bethel/Newry line. 8 hrs. J. Howe, Lon Wight, Rob Foster & Ed York. November 22, Cloudy, clearing. 4 1/2 hr. on line. Norway in p.m. F. & G. [Fish & Game] meeting in eve. at Locke Mills. November 23, Cloudy. 8 hrs. on line. In sight of Sunday River. November 24, Snow (light). Sills & foundation under Dad's camp [used the farm's old ice house for a camp]. Greenwood for dinner. Snow at night. November 25, Clearing & colder. Finished line to Sunday River Road. November 26, Clear & cold. Up & over Locke Mt. 494 rods to "Chapman Pasture." Lost my Hodgman's Manual on line job. (Curses!!) November 27, Snow, 6". Housed farm machinery. Rumford in p.m. I'm an Associate Member of Advisory Board for Draft. November 28, Blow. Cold! To Brentwood [estate in Freeport] for Thanksgiving Dinner. November 29, Clouding up again. Back on town line. Reblazed thru to 96 rods west of high bank west of Chapman Brook. November 30, Clearing, windy. West again toward Gilead. Ran into mix-up on Leighton's land. Didn't reach the town corner. Snow at night, 8". December 1, Clearing, windy. Laid floor in Dad's camp. Boarded gable, put in window & door & set up stove. December 2, Clear, cold. 8 hr. on Ed Bennett's. Gene & Dean [Farrar] helped me, \$4.50. December 3, Cold. 2 hr. for H. I. Bean in Albany Lot 9 R4 Hunt's Corner. Cut birch in p.m. December 4, -25 [degrees]. Clear & cold. Repaired barn. 4 hr. for Town of Bethel on Osgood Lot 14 R8 Bethel. Star Meeting. December 5, Cloudy, cold.

Chained on town line with Rodney [Howe]. Ran base line west from Offset 2. Left Transit on line. December 6, Clear, cold. Ran thru to Chapman Brook. December 7, Cloudy, warmer. Ran west to end of old spots. Hard day. December 8, Put up spuds, a.m. Greenwood in p.m. 2 broken rear springs on my car. December 9, Clear, warm. Started at NW corner of Bethel & ran easterly on town line, 395 1/2 rods. December 10, Cold, cloudy. Finished town line job. December 11, Clear & warm. Portland with spuds. \$1 per cwt. December 12, Snow. Ruth & I went Xmas shopping in Portland. Masonic installation. I'm Senior Deacon. Rain at night. December 13, Clearing. Butchered veal. Filed saw. Norway in p.m. to see Dr. Swett. December 14, -10 [degrees] Clear, cold. Rumford with veal. 143 lbs. @ .16 = \$22.88. December 15, Worked on Dad's camp. Hung front door. P.M. went to Henry French's for apples, \$.50 & \$.75 per bu. December 16, Cold, rain. Hauled wood (1 cord) to Brownie Swan. Sawed wood for John. Sleet & ice at night. December 17, Clear & cold. Got load of shavings from Bethel. Slippery. Hard crust. December 18, Clear, cool. Finished siding on Dad's camp walls. December 19, Clear & cool. 8 hrs. for P. H. Chadbourne in Lot 13 Ranges 6 & 7 Albany. December 20, Cloudy, warmer. Put up spuds. Moved stove. Went to Bethel. December 21, Clear. Built window frame. Shingled roof around roof jack. December 22, Snow, 1 1/2". Put in second window. Practice meeting E. W. Degree. December 23, Cold, windy. Hauled logs. Threw my back out, 2 bones. Norway in eve. December 24, Cold, clear. Laying around. Laid floor, 1 hr. for Leonard Tyler. Lauri's folks came. December 25, Cloudy, warm. Celebrated Christmas. December 26, Warm. Put up spuds. Sawed wood & hauled 1 1/2 cords to Milton. December 27, Clear, warm. Sawed wood into cellars. Sold Ford engine, \$1 & Chev. Battery \$.50. Norway in p.m. December 28, Cloudy, warm. Tinkering. Bethel in p.m. Raining hard. December 29, Rain. Built a porch on Dad's camp. December 30, Rain. Director's meeting at W. M. Chandler's place. \$5 & \$3.36 for mileage. Masonic funeral at Upton for Bro. Scott Coolidge. Practice meeting in eve. December 31, Clearing, cool. 8 hrs. for Billy Chapman & Widd Twaddle in Gilead Range 13, N of River (Judd Blake place). 41st job this year. 1941--January 1, Clear & cold. 3 hr. on Osgood survey job. P.M. cutting up limbwood in 10R7. Star officers elected. Ruth is Conductress. I'm still A. Patron. January 2, 5 degrees. Clear, cold. A.M. cut logs on Coburn Place. P.M. went to Ernest Luxton's & renewed [his] insurance. I have W. Bethel territory [for Grange insurance]. Masonic practice meeting. January 3, Cloudy. 8 hr. in 20 R8 between Edwards & Guy Perkins. Perkins paid 1/2 or \$3.20. Snow is 6" deep & a crust. Deer are yarded in that swamp. Grange installation. January 4, Snow. Norway in a.m. Back is out a little. P.M. at home & lazy. January 5, [No entry]. January 6, Clear, cool. All day in swamp for Edwards map job. Practice meeting. January 7, Bethel with spuds. Hauled boards to Davis mill for planing, \$2.90. January 8, Finished floor and put in ceiling in Dad's camp. January 9, Hauled wood all day, 3 loads limbwood, 1 load dry cordwood. E. A. degree in eve. January 10, Sawed wood. Norway in p.m. January 11, Clear, cool. Worked on camp. P.M. to Bethel. 63 party in eve. January 12, Cloudy. A.M. at home. P.M. in Greenwood. January 13, Cold & windy. Spent day "chasing lines" in the Moose Bog swamp. January 14, Clear & cold! Gale! Annual meeting of Oxford County P. of H. Mutual Fire Ins. Co. at So. Paris. Had car fixed up. January 15, Cold as ever. Made sledge & axe handle

wedge, pry-bar, stanchions, etc. Bob went to Fryeburg after heifers but didn't buy. January 16, Clear & cold. Filing in a.m. Hauled wood in p.m. January 17, Snow & rain. Annual meeting of Farm Bureau. January 18, Cloudy. Put up spuds all day. "63" party in eve. January 19, Cloudy. Round home. January 20, Clear, cold & windy. A.M. cutting wood. P.M. waiting for the "A.V.A.B.A." man. Androscoggin Valley Artificial Breeders Ass'n to you. January 21, Clear & cool. 10 bu. spuds to Bryant's [market]. Rest of day on lines of 20 R9 & 21 R9 also 19R8 & 20R8. Map job. January 22, Cloudy. Portland to get glasses fixed. Freeport & bought cruising boots, \$4.45 & slippers, \$1.90 at L. L. Bean's. January 23, Cloudy. Sawed wood & moved seed spuds. January 24, Clear & cool. Cut wood in a.m. Norway for treatment in p.m. January 25, Cloudy. Filing, etc. a.m. P.M. Bethel with spuds. Shipped transit to factory for adjustment, \$.98. January 26, Clouding up. Laid out a new main road across Bean Swamp. Greenwood for dinner p.m. January 27, -18 [degrees] Clear & cold. Swamping road in Bean Swamp. Practice meeting F. C. Degree. January 28, Cut pulp. January 29, Clear, cool. Got Grange chairs from Bethel. January 30, Clear, warm. Cut pulp in a.m. Norway to see Swett, p.m. January 31, Fair & warm. Filed saws. February 1, Clear & cool. Cut pulp. Bethel for haircuts for family. February 2, Snow. No sun today. Put the paper [insulation] on camp walls (inside). February 3, Cut pulp. Practice meeting for F. C. degree. Got transit back. All adjusted and no charge. February 4, Round home. Hunted for calf. No luck. February 5, Clear and cool. Cut pulp. Star meeting in eve. Work. February 6, Clear, warm. Put up spuds & Bob went to city. Cut limbwood. February 7, Clear & warm. Cut up limbwood. Norway in p.m. Rain. February 8, Clear & warm. Snow melting. I wired Gene Burns' camp, 5 hr. February 9, Clear & windy. Grover, Ernest [Bisbee], John and I went ice-fishing at Ernest's camp on Round Pond [Greenwood], 5 fish. February 10, Clear & cold. Finished wiring Gene's camp, 1 hr. Star rehearsal in p.m. Masonic rehearsal in eve. Jefferson Chapter installation. February 11, Clear & cold. Hauled and split furnace wood. Mason meeting in Bryant Pond. February 12, Same as yesterday. Star installation at Bethel. Frank Bean installed. February 13, Cloudy. I'm tinkering around. Very little snow, maybe 6-8 in. & a crust. F. C. degree at Bethel. February 14, Cloudy. February 15, Spuds to Bethel. February 16, Cold & windy. Finished inside finish of Dad's camp. February 17, Cold & windy. Started two incubators. February 18, Cold & windy. Set incubators. Spuds to Bryant's. Took map to Lon Wight [selectman of Newry] [I was] Paid for surveying Bethel/Newry line. February 19, Colder & windy. Wired 7 hrs. for Dr. Swett. February 20, Wind. Gale. Surveyed 7 hrs. for Les Davis & Chadbourne in 14 & 15 R2 Bethel. February 21, Windy. Killed veal calf. 225 lbs. dressed, \$40.50. Norway in p.m. February 22, Windy. Started a level rod. 1 3/4 hr. on school water system. February 23, Windy. Bob's folks & our kids gone to Umbagog. Moved Dad's stuff from [his] Gun Room into Camp. Greenwood in p.m. February 24, Windy. Put up 40cwt. spuds. Bob went to city. Built a new side to wood body [of truck]. Bethel in p.m. Bought a watch, 17 jewel Elgin, 20 yr. case. \$9. February 25, Calm & cool. Director's meeting in So. Paris. Looked up deeds. "63" party at John's in eve. Squalls at night. First snow in 23 days. February 26, Cold, windy. 5 hr. for Chadbourne & Davis in L 14 & 15 R2 Bethel. Les sold Phil about 53A more or less. February 27, Cold & windy. Worked on incubators, etc. E. A. degree in eve.



William S. Hastings with wife Ruth (holding son William), daughter Barbara and dog "Mike" at the Hastings farm, 1929. Photo courtesy of Barbara Hasting Honkala.

on Milo McAlister. February 28, Cold & windy. Set two incubators. Spuds to Bryant and Bethel Inn. [notes that that only 1/10 of 1 inch of snow in February. Record. 70 years ago there was 1 inch in Feb.] March 1, Cold & windy. Hauled cordwood a.m. Wired for Farwell in p.m. March 2, Clear, windy. Figured in Smith's wiring job. Greenwood in p.m. March 3, Clear, warm. Was Moderator of Town Meeting. Vote 83. Was sworn in as Constable, Fence Viewer, and Surveyor of Wood. March 4, Snow. 1 in. Wired 8 hr. for Dr. Swett. March 5, Clear, windy. Tested [eggs in] incubators. Combined two & set the empty one. Put up spuds. Star meeting in eve. March 6, Clear & windy. 5 hr. for Phil Chadbourne on L5 R 12 Waterford. Copied a map of Newry by 'E. M. C. Macy. "63" [card party] at [Blanche & Elmer] Trask's. March 7, Clear, warmer. "Road monkeying" on pulp job. Norway in p.m. Guess this is a "weather breeder." March 8, Clouding, snow. Chored 'round. Ruth & I attended "Gramp" Crockett's funeral. Ruth has a bad cold. March 9, Clearing. 6" snow. Round home. March 10, Windy. Put up spuds. Billy has measles. March 11, Clouding. Bob & I took a load spuds to Portland. Bob started for Washington on Soil Conservation business. Snow at night-Nor'easter. March 12, Snow, 2 feet. 2 1/2 hr. surveying for Winslow in L11 R11 Bethel. Court in p.m. at Rumford, 2 hr. & \$1 mileage. March

13, Clear, warm. Fighting the grippe. 140 chix to Raymond Buck. Charged. Inspection in F. C. degree in eve. Came off O.K. March 14, Clear, warm. Taken sick in forenoon. Dr. Wilson came in eve. Barb is coming on with measles. March 15, Clear, warm. I'm in bed. Ruth is Head Nurse in a hospital. And carrying on the ranch besides. March 16, Cloudy. I'm dressed. Helped Ruth set two incubators, 653 eggs. Grover called. Snow at night. March 17, Snow. Clearing, colder. I'm weak as a rag. In house all day. Bob home from Washington. March 18, Blow! Still under the weather. Dad is sick. March 19, Blow! A.M. court in Rumford on Winslow case. P.M. looking up deeds in Paris. Met Elmer Cummings, C.E. March 20, Blow! Set up brooder & did the chores. Relapse at night. Curses! March 21, Clear. I'm better, I guess. Put up spuds. Norway in p.m. March 22, Clear & windy. Bob in Portland. 384 chix into brooder. Bethel with spuds p.m. March 23, Clear & warm. Snow is melting. March 24, Clouding. Thawed Coburn culvert. Set 2 incubators. Practice meeting in eve. E. A. degree. Edward has measles. March 25, Cloudy, foggy. March 26, Clear, windy. Cleaned brooders. Put up spuds. Hauled 1 load limbwood. Snow is softening. About 13" in the woods. March 27, Clear, windy. Bethel with spuds. Three candidates in the E. A. degree. March 28, Clouding. First robin. Wired 6 ½ hr. for Dr. Swett in Norway. March 29, Windy. March 30, Windy. Home in a.m. Star practice meeting in p.m. Returned Lon Wight's map & book via Ed Warren. March 31, Windy & cold. Hauled last of the pulp to river. P.M. put on finish on hen house. Masonic practice meeting in eve. April 1, Clear, warm. Lots of bare ground in sight. Worked on camp in a.m. Sawed wood for cellars in p.m. ½ cord to [Erlon] Dutton. Card party in Bethel in eve. April 2, Clouding, warm. Spuds to Bryant. Repaired dray [low cart without sides]. Star meeting in eve. April 3, Clear, warm. Put up spuds a. m. P.M. worked on camp. April 4, Clear & cool. Hauled wood from 7R 10. Sledding is getting thin. Norway in p.m. April 5, Clear & cool. Choreing & painted cellar doors. Snow is all gone around the yards. Looks quite Springlike. April 6, Clear & warm. Moved batteries to Bean Place. Set up 3rd brooder in cellar. Masonic practice meeting, M.M. Degree in p.m. 2 incubators hatched, 413 chix, 204 to [Raymond] Buck. April 7, Clear, cool. Chick chores in a.m. Bethel in p.m. April 8, Clear, cool. Set 2 incubators, II & IV. April 9, Clear, warm. Started painting house. Hardly any snow in sight. Yards are bare & dry. Roads are good. April 10, Clear & warm. Changed to summer underwear. Painted South side of house. M.M. degree on 2 candidates in eve. Went off fine. April 11, Fair & warm. Put up spuds. Bob went to Portland. I painted. P.M. showed H. N. Bragdon his corners in L20 R 8 north of river, \$2 paid. April 12, Fair & warm. Norway to have back fixed. Cleaned the big brooder house. Crew started sawing wood. Pictures in eve. Pond cleared of ice. April 13, Clouding. Easter. Helped burn the grass in cemetery. Threw 2 bones out in my back. Greenwood n p.m. Light showers. April 14, Clearing. Moved oldest chix to big brooder house. Norway to see Dr. Swett. April 15, Cloudy, warm. Bethel with spuds & fowl. P.M. changed hen house into a young stock shed. Crew sawing wood. April 16, Clear & windy. Surveying for Clarence Hall & Herman Mason, 3 hr. For Fred Edwards cruising and mapping, 3 hrs. @ \$1= \$3. Settled the Hall-Mason case peaceably. Snow all gone in woods. April 17, Cloudy, cold. Repairing machinery. 1 ½ hr. for Lewis Smith installing entrance, \$1.20. Thunderstorm. April 18, Clear,

warm. Norway in p.m. New engine mountings, \$5.60. April 19, Clear, warm. Tinkering around. Ruth took car to garage. New arms & bushings on knee-action, \$9.70. Ouch! April 20, Clear & hot! Around 85[degrees]. Went to Greenwood. April 21, Clear & cool. Wired 5 hr. for Ed Billings. April 22, Clear & cold. 36 [degrees]. Finished the finish job on the Coburn brooder house. Creddeford came after seed potatoes. April 23, Clear & warm. Norway in a.m. for "adjustment." Called on Walker's Field Day for 15 minutes. Court House for Plan of Gilead. Home via Bethel. Painted in p.m. April 24, Rainy. Round home. Put up seed spuds. Surveyed 3 hr. for Ben Kimball in L17 R9 Middle Intervale. April 25, Cloudy. Dressed 19 hens in a.m. Surveyed 4 hr. for Kimball in p.m. April 26, Clear & windy. Bethel in p.m. April 27, Cloudy. Home in a.m. Went to Upton, Errol & Berlin. Road is good. April 28, Clear & windy. Clint [Littlefield] is here painting. Miss Susan Martin hired me to survey her farm, May 12. Letter from Alton Wheeler about surveying Thomson's Gore. April 29, Clear, windy. Painting. April 30, Clear, windy. Put up spuds, put planter in running order. Painted. Installed entrance switch for Lewis Smith, 2 hr. in all, \$1.60. May 1, Cloudy. Painted. May 2, Rain. Scraped & painted screens in a.m. P.M. Norway. May 3, Clear after a white frost. Painted all day. Nearly done. May 4, Cloudy. Surveyed 2 ½ hr. for Geo. LeGrow. Threw my back out. Cuss! Bethel & Greenwood in p.m. Roads are good. May 5, Clear, cool. 8 hrs. for Susan Martin surveying the Martin farm. Lots 94, 95, 98,99, 2nd Division, Rumford. May 6, Clear & hot. 8 hr. on Martin's West & North lines, against Ladd & Albert Abbott. Clint finished painting the house. May 7, Clear, hot. 5 hrs. for town, laying sidewalk grade and drain on Main St. Star meeting in eve. May 8, Rain in a.m. Started the water line on the chicken range. Norway in late p.m. Past Masters' night in Bethel. May 9, Clear & hot. 6 hr. for Martin job & finished. Got a bu. of apples at Henry French's. Trees are leaved out. No flies yet. May 10, Cold & cold. Repaired harrow. Put up spuds. Barn swallows are here. May 11, Clear, cool. Round home & Greenwood. May 12, Clear & cool. Started surveying Fogg land in Newry on Bull Branch watershed for Town of Newry, 9 hrs. May 13, Clear & warm. On the Newry-Riley line on Fogg land, 8 hr. May 14, Same, Up & over Bear River White Cap, 9 hr. May 15, Clear & cool. Height of land south of White Cap. 11 ½ hr. from car to car. 10 hr. May 16, Clear & hot. On South end of lot, 9 hr. May 17, Clouding, showers. Finished the Fogg land, 1400 A. 7 hr. 52 hr. @ .80=\$41.60. May 18, Cold & windy. Mapping all day. May 19, Clear & cool. 10 hr. on Mason lot in Newry. May 20, Clear, hot. 8 hr. on Mason lot & finished. May 21, Clear & HOT! 90 [degrees] in the shade. Fenced all day. May 22, Clear & hot. Went round the Swift Place fence. Measured potato ground, 14 3/4 A. planted. May 23, Cloudy & showery. Turned cattle out. Norway in p.m. May 24, Cold & windy. Repaired machinery & Dutton's water pipe. May 25, Cold & windy. Grover's folks, John's family and my family went to Bob's camp on Umbagog. May 26, Clearing & warm. Planted spuds all day on Horse Pasture. 17 A in all now. May 27, Rain. Director's meeting at So. Paris. Looked up records at Court House. Met Alton Wheeler. May 28, Rainy. Repaired. May 29, [no entry], May 30, [no entry], May 31, Clear & cool. Planted spuds on Horse Pasture & finished it. Planted garden & harrowed.

(to be continued in the next issue)

News from the Society's Museum Shop

We have been busy restocking the Society's Museum Shop in the Robinson House with new items and old favorites. Several recently released books on topics of local or regional interest are now on the shelves, as are a larger assortment of balsam-filled pillows and trivets, sticker books, notecards, videos, old-time children's games, dollhouse furniture, and Lucy Eames mini-sampler kits.

There are still a number of Primrose Path replicas of the Dr. Moses Mason House, the West Parish Congregational Church, and the Middle Intervale Meetinghouse available, and plans are underway for a fifth replica to appear for the 2004 holiday season. The Cole Block ("Odeon Hall") has been suggested and other ideas are welcomed. Our display case at the Bethel Inn continues to attract the attention of many Inn guests, a number of whom have made purchases in the Shop. A new exhibit at the Robinson House, "Molly Ockett and Her World," opened this summer, and we are featuring several Abenaki-related items in the Shop.

Due, in part, to two book signings hosted by the Society, 2003 was our best year to date for Museum Shop sales, and our goal for 2004 is to do as well, or better. Although summer and the holiday season are typically our busiest times in the Shop, business has continued to be steady, thanks to visitors and internet orders. A list of items available by mail is located on the Museum Shop page of the Society's website (see page 12) along with ordering information and a printable order form.

The Shop's summer hours began on July 1, the same day guided tours of the period rooms in the Dr. Mason House resumed. We're looking forward to another busy summer and fall season at the Society, and are grateful to the faithful volunteers who help out in the Shop. If you or someone you know would be interested in signing up to volunteer in the shop, please contact us by phone (824-2908) or by e-mail (see page 12) as we are always looking for people willing to help.

In Memoriam

Died, 11 March 2004, Lucille Holman, Falmouth, Senior Member

Died, 11 April 2004, Ruth W. Wight, Bethel, Life Member

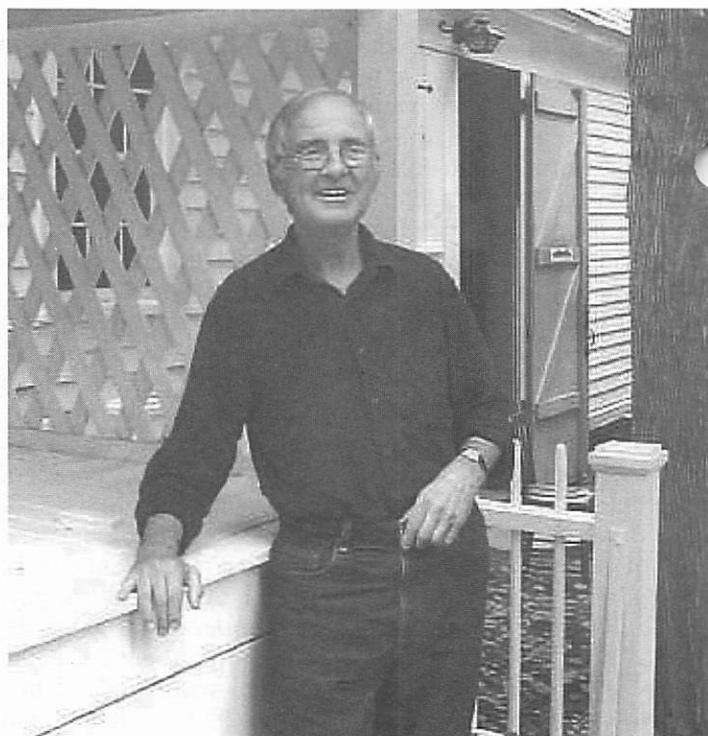
Died, 16 April 2004, Robert L. Eichel, Worcester, MA, Senior Member

Died, 4 May 2004, Kathryn Davis Hamlin, Longmeadow, MA, Senior Member

Died, 14 May 2004, Evelyn Perry Nickerson, Bethel, Senior Member

Died, 22 June 2004, Mina McMillin, Bethel, Life Member

Died, 27 June 2004, Barbara Lyon Kuzyk, Bethel, Life Member



James K. Macgregor

Member Profile

James K. Macgregor

James "Jim" K. Macgregor was born in Rumford in 1937 the son of Rodney Abbott and Caroline Kimball Macgregor. He grew up in Augusta, Portland, and central New York State. He graduated from Voorheesville High School in Voorheesville, New York. He spent summers growing up in Maine, particularly in the Rumford area, where he has many relatives.

Following graduation from Yale with a degree in fine arts and a stint in the U. S. Army, he worked for many years in publishing in Boston, where he and his wife, the former Linda Farr met. They are the parents of three daughters, Sarah, Anna, and Polly and have four grandchildren. The Macgregors were among the urban renewal "pioneers" who settled in Boston's South End in the 1970s.

After years as an art director at Little, Brown & Company, he moved to New England Life to become a corporate art director. Following retirement in 1999, Jim and Linda settled permanently in their former "camp" at Rumford Point in 1997. Both Jim and his wife are active in the community, Jim as a visual artist and Linda as a writer. Jim has exhibited his work in the Bethel/Rumford area and has won a number of commendations. He and his wife enjoy cross country skiing, canoeing, reading, music, gardening and the company of their grandchildren.

At the Society, Jim chairs the Program Committee, serves on the Art Committee, and volunteers in the gift shop and as a guide in the Dr. Moses Mason House.

Book Note

Maine Sawmills: A History. By Paul E. Rivard. (Augusta, ME: Maine State Museum, 1990. Pp. 62. Paper \$13.50)

For those interested in learning about saw mills, this book is essential for it contains a myriad of details on up and down, circular and gang saws, mill ponds, water-powered and portable mills, lumber railroads, pit sawyers, etc. A good sampling of mill photos accompanies the text and goes a long way in illustrating many of the points made by the author, who at the time of the book's publication was the Director of the Maine State Museum. The book also includes a number of woodcuts and drawings that also highlight the text. These structures were once among the first buildings constructed as Maine became settled, but are today largely gone and only known by the images that have been preserved and some surviving place names.

SRH

For ordering information, please see page 12.

Editor's Corner

When the Society received the gift of the Dr. Moses Mason House, there was no *Courier*. It did not begin to be published until December 1976. The local newspaper, the *Citizen*, however, contains much coverage of the Society prior to the publication of the first *Courier* issue. During this era, Edith Eaton Eddy was the publicist for the Society until I took over in the summer of 1974. Since that time, I have been responsible for Society media coverage and editing the *Courier*. As I reflect on thirty years of writing releases, preparing the *Courier*, and managing the affairs of the Society, I recall how many people were involved in those early days. Many of them are gone now, but they and their contributions live on in my mind. I am also hopeful that we have so fully documented the early history of the Society that these dedicated volunteers will not soon be forgotten.

SRH

New Life Members

Mary Eichel, Bethel
Donald and Sylvia Gray, Newry
William B. and Ellen Conant Krohn, Brewer
Mary McFadden, Brookline, MA
Peggy Paine, Monson, MA
Lawrence T. P. Stifler, Brookline, MA
Thomas J. Wheeler, Bethel

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- Preferred rate for exhibit hall/meeting room rental
- Voting rights in the Society
- Reduced course fees
- Special invitations to Society events

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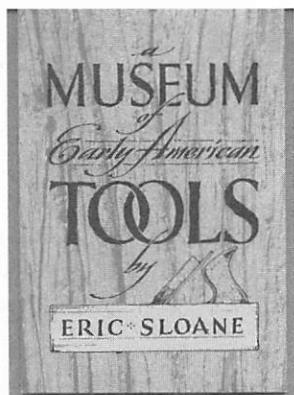
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FROM THE MUSEUM SHOP*



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By Eric Sloane

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To order: Send check or money order to the Bethel Historical Society, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. Members may deduct 10% from prices given on orders of \$10 or more. Shipments to Maine addresses should include 5% sales tax. Shipping fees: under \$10 = \$2.00; \$10 to \$19.99 = \$3.00; \$20 and over = \$4.00

*For a list of additional items available from the Museum Shop, please visit our web site at www.bethelhistorical.org

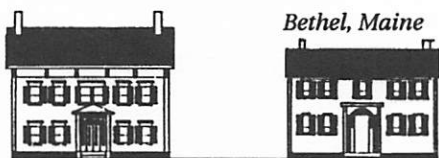
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